



RCC WELCOMES DR. PETER SINGER

“Global Poverty—What are our Obligations?”

Would you jump into the water to save a drowning child if you were wearing a new suit and expensive new shoes? Dr. Peter Singer, the Ira DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University who visited the college on September 21 as a guest of our Honors Program, believes that those of us who are affluent—and that means anyone who is above the level of meeting basic needs—have a moral obligation to help the one billion people in our world who are living at the level of poverty.

In a low-key delivery that belied the urgency of his message, Dr. Singer presented a lecture on “Ethics for One World.”

The World Bank definition of poverty is not having enough money for the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, and minimal health care. Singer provided startling statistics: 1 billion people are living on the equivalent of \$1.52 per day. Because of malnutrition, lack of health care and unsafe drinking water, their life expectancy is under 50 years.

On September 11, 2001, 3,000 people died from terrorist attacks. On that same day, 27,000 children died as a result of poverty-related diseases. According to Singer, our neighbors are not just those who live around the block but include those who live in our world. Therefore, we are all morally responsible for those who are less fortunate.

Each time people buy a bottle of water instead of drinking water from the tap, they could have used that money to save a child from dying of starvation.



Dr. Peter Singer addresses the Honors Program at Roxbury Community College on September 21.

Dr. Singer’s point is that we can prevent these deaths without sacrificing anything of great moral significance. \$10,000

would save an entire village. If each of us gave sixty cents per day, we could save someone from starvation.

RCC JOINS ACHIEVING THE DREAM: COMMUNITY COLLEGES COUNT

You may have seen posters around campus, known other students who were randomly selected to be in a focus group discussion, or heard people talk about Achieving the Dream and not even given it much thought, since the motto of RCC is “Gateway to the Dream,” so Achieving the Dream sounds like a new twist on the same idea. Well, in the deepest sense, that of helping students achieve their goals, it is the same general idea. But in terms of specific goals, they are two different things. RCC’s motto of Gateway to the Dream is local, while Achieving the Dream is a national organization. It’s great that they reverberate: Achieving the Dream has come to the Gateway to the Dream.

Achieving the Dream is a national initiative to help more community college students succeed. It’s called an initiative because it isn’t meant to be a permanent organization, but is rather an attempt to help with something, an action, an initiative. Once you get involved with Achieving the Dream, you start to call it just ATD. ATD was funded by industry and government organizations which recognize the important role that community colleges play in this country. The initiative is particularly concerned about low income students, students of color, and other groups that might face

particular challenges at a given institution, for example older women returning to school after many years, or young Hispanic males, depending on the school. RCC is one of four community colleges in Massachusetts beginning to participate this year. This is the 4th year of the initiative, so we can benefit from what was already learned in the previous years.

In this first year we are studying the learning experience of students here and asking ourselves why students do, and don’t, finish courses, do well in them, stay in school, or get a degree. What are the factors which lead students to succeed, to be challenged, to give up, to stick with it? What can we do as teachers, advisors, staff, to make things better? Through focus groups, surveys, and detailed analysis of College systems and student data, we are trying to identify just a few of the most crucial problems; we can’t fix everything at once. In this first year we will identify a few problems and decide on ways to intervene in those areas, ways to change what we do, with the goal of helping more students do well in their first, most challenging, semesters at the College.

In the spring we will decide on what new things we will try, which strategies we will use to improve the student experience.

Staff from all areas of the college, faculty, students, and people from outside the college (businesses that hire our students, GED program coordinators, etc.) are all playing a role in making these decisions. We will make a tentative decision on our strategies, and in February six people from the College (including the President, several Vice Presidents, and faculty) will go to a national Strategy Institute to further refine the strategies, based on input from schools na-

tionwide that have tried similar approaches.

Finally, in Fall 2008 we will begin to implement the new strategies, with money to help us do that from the ATD funders. For four years we will try these new approaches, carefully study their success (or lack of success), adjust them if needed, continue to be in touch with other schools nationwide for advice and support, and measure the success of our new strategies so we can feed this data into a national da-

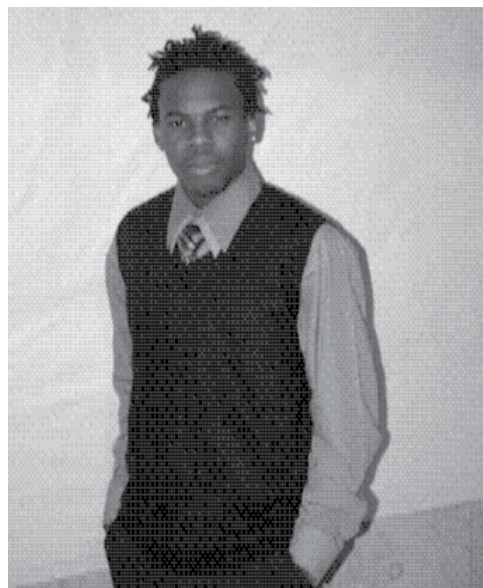
tabase which helps all schools see whether one strategy or another really works in a certain kind of environment. Many details about the type of school and type of students are considered, to be sure that meaningful comparisons are made. What works for farm kids in Iowa might not be what’s needed for 35-year-old mothers returning to school in Roxbury, and the ATD national initiative makes sure that we think

Continued on page 2

SGA ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Hello everyone! My name is Yvens Pierre-Louis and I’m your SGA (Student Government Association) President. First of all, as a student here at RC., I will show respect to all, and as your president I will do anything in my power to make sure everyone gets a chance to speak. My duty as the president is to be your voice to the administration. During my term I hope to bring togetherness, respect, and unity to this campus. So far I am

working on a talent show. It’s about finding hidden talent here at RCC. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can contact me at Ypierre-louis3@rcc.mass.edu or you can come and see me in the Student Government Office located on the third floor in the Student Center. You can also reach me at (617) 427-0060, extension 5003. Please submit any questions to me and I will respond in the next SGA column.



Yvens Pierre-Louis

ASK THE GRAMMARIAN

In this edition of The Gateway Gazette, we introduce the column, “Ask the GRAMMARIAN,” to help our readers understand some of the linguistic choices we make in the rhetorical process. We posit that as individual speech or writing acts are to the language in which they are spoken, so are many other individual actions to the codes of the culture in which they occur. This is the most fundamental and durable insight of structuralism, the insight upon which all later semiotic studies have been founded.

Every meaningful action is meaningful only to the extent that it is a sign in some interpretative code. Various kinds of joking statements and wit have been developed precisely to challenge orthodoxy, to disturb the code,

to force the orthodoxy out of their codified grooves of thought. Orthodoxy responds by codifying unorthodox behavior, setting aside times and places for approved saturnalias, designing certain speech codes as the rhetorician’s special paraphernalia and telling poets they have a license to be odd or to depart from convention.

No one who has ever studied seriously the history of any art can doubt the importance of precedent, schema, presupposition, convention,—all those things that in literary study we call genre and style—in the actual production texts.

In “Ask the GRAMMARIAN” we are mainly concerned with stylistic rather than generic practice. Stylistic bestiary of Speech is

useful only in so far as it helps us to write better. We will in this edition consider the Figure of Speech, a stylistic device used by writers to convey meaning by representing one thing in terms normally denoting another with which it may be regarded as analogous. As a matter of fact the very phrase “figure of speech” is misleading in its static, passive form. It should be the “figuring of speech” or, better yet, simply figuring speech.

The figuring of speech reveals to us the apparently limitless plasticity of language itself. We are confronted, inescapably, with intoxicating possibility that we can make language do for us almost anything we want. This is what rhetorical power is all about.

We will now consider an

ENALLAGE, a distinctive kind of figuring speech. It would be best to explain its stylistic implications through a linguistic allegorization:

“On the night of June 21, 1932, Joe Jacobs, a professional prize fight manager, after hearing that his man had not been awarded the decision, achieved for himself a linguistic immortality by shouting into the announcer’s microphone, ‘we was robbed!’”

Grammatically, “we” does not ordinarily go with “was.” And we might think that Jacobs had simply made a grammatical mistake of a rather rudimentary kind. Yet, if he had said, “were,” he likely would have been consigned to the same oblivion as was the smug winning manager. Far from being a mistake, the use of “was” was an

inspiration. To be more precise, it was an enallage, which is the rhetorical name for an effective grammatical mistake.

Like was said earlier, writing is a matter of making linguistic choices, and reading depends upon understanding the linguistic choices made by someone else. The figure of speech helps us see the choices available in a given context.

In the next issue we will discuss other paralinguistic and stylistic devices.

Send your grammatical question by e-mail to ASK THE GRAMMARIAN at gatewaygazette@rcc.mass.edu

Rhetorician
September 28, 2007

RCC STUDENTS PRESENT AT TEXAS CONFERENCE

On November 7, two students from Roxbury Community College and one former student flew to Austin, Texas to present posters on research that they worked on at UMass-Boston (UMB) during the summer as part of the Bridges program that encourages minority students to pursue degrees in the field of science. These three students were part of ten RCC students selected for research internships at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston University (BU) and UMB. All students from MIT, BU and UMB presented their research at respective conferences this year. This past weekend Ilesha Rue won an “Outstanding Poster Presentation” award for her project entitled, “Identification of Microsatellite Markers from EST Databases for Use in Population Studies.” Working with professors and a graduate student from the Biology Department at UMB, Ilesha studied genetic differences among populations of yellow star

thistle to identify differences between native and invasive populations.

Posters displaying the research projects for these students will soon be on display in the library for the RCC community. Come by the library and see the fantastic work accomplished by some of our students.

Congratulations to Ilesha Rue (UMB), Mitzi Sweeney (UMB), Tanya Nixon (UMB), Georges Chick (UMB), Brandon Trench (MIT), Candy Bautista (MIT), Jannine Austrie (MIT), Jessica Maloney (MIT), Darlene Morris (BU) and Natasha Oliveira (BU). You make RCC proud!

For more information on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) enrichment programs at RCC or if you are interested in summer science research internships, please see Dr. Frederic Bertley in Room 401B in the Science Department or email him at fberty@rcc.mass.edu.

BUSH SIGNS INTO LAW MORE MONEY FOR STUDENTS

BY DAVID PALOMARES
GAZETTE REPORTER

Those who want help paying for college will now get it. President George W. Bush signed into law “The College Cost Reduction and Access Act.” The act would increase Pell grants from \$4,310 per student in 2007 to \$5,400 per student by 2012. The new law also cuts the interest rate on Federal Student Loans from 6.8% to 3.4% over the next four years. Congress passed it in the House by a vote of 292-97, and in the Senate 79-12.

“This bill will help ensure that no qualified student is prevented from going to college because of the cost,” says Rep. George Miller (Democrat from Ca.)

“The College Cost Reduction and Access Act makes the largest investment in student Financial Aid since passage of the G.I. Bill in 1934,” says Speaker of the

House Nancy Pelosi.

Bush said, “Pell grants send an important message to students in

“I feel it’s about time that he did something right in his life, and it’s good even though regular schools need money,”

—James McGruder,
RCC Broadcast and
Media Technology major

need. If you work hard, and you stay in school, and you make the right choices, the federal gov-

ernment is going to stand with you.”

“I feel it’s about time that he [President Bush] did something right in his life, and it’s good even though regular schools need money,” says James McGruder, a Broadcast and Media Technology major at Roxbury Community College (RCC).

“I would take full advantage of it; as it stands, I’m at zero in terms of finances and this would help my pockets out a lot,” says Rocque Bridgewater, an RCC Student

Andre Charles, a Financial Aid Counselor here at RCC, is happy with the news. “Any increase for students is good, being that Massachusetts is an expensive state to live in.”

With a step forward in helping to fund education, there is NO excuse for students NOT to get an education and help better themselves.

ACHIEVING THE DREAM

Continued from page 1

about this every step of the way.

There are 5 hard measures that are taken across the country for schools participating in ATD. We keep track of the number of students who:

- Successfully complete developmental courses and progress to credit bearing courses;
- Enroll in and successfully complete gatekeeper courses such as English Composition and college level math;
- Complete the courses


they take with a grade of C or higher;

- Re-enroll from one semester to the next; and
- Earn certificates and degrees.

Ultimately, the initiative seeks to help more students achieve their individual goals and works to create a culture of evidence on the campus by connecting these data to the things we try. If we change the way we do X, will more students finish developmental courses after 2 years of a new approach? By participating in ATD, we will know for sure. The administration, faculty and staff at RCC want to have factual answers to questions

like this so we can be certain we are making a difference - so we can do better at helping you do better. That’s what Achieving the Dream is all about.

This article was adapted by Professor Sterling Giles (ESOL) from RCC public relations materials and text provided on the national Website of the ATD initiative: www.achievingthedream.org. Sterling is the campus ATD coordinator and would be happy to answer any questions or hear any suggestions students may have. You can contact him on campus at extension 5125, sgiles@rcc.mass.edu, office 3-201C.

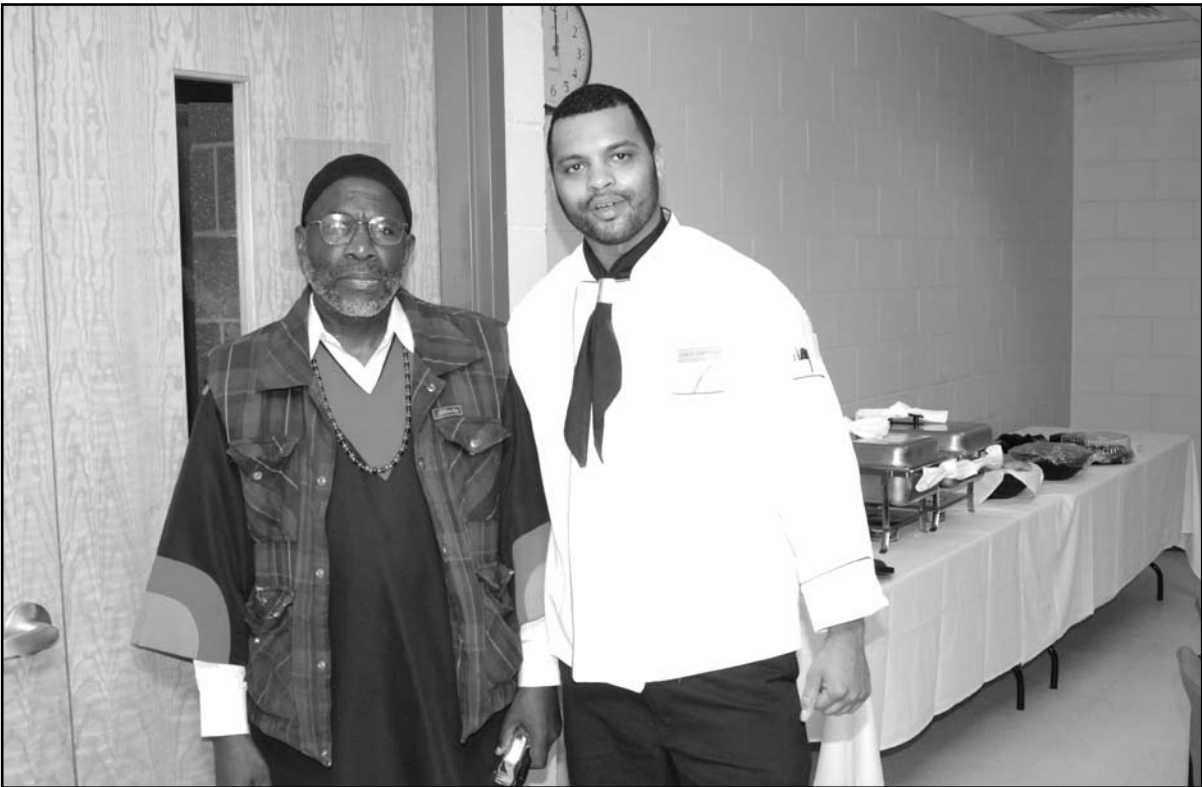


Roxbury Community College
GATEWAY GAZETTE
A publication of staff and students at
Roxbury Community College
1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts 02120

The Gateway Gazette is a publication of the students of Roxbury Community College. All submissions are subject to editing. We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed in published articles; however, we strive for truth and integrity in all published material. We will also

accept articles from faculty and staff. All submissions must be sent to: jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu; dupdik@rcc.mass.edu; or tmalone@rcc.mass.edu.

Faculty Advisers to The Gateway Gazette: Judy Kahalas, TiaJuana Malone, David Updike



John Smith Sr. of City Fresh Foods (right) and a member of the RCC faculty

CITY FRESH BRINGS NEW FOOD AND FACES TO RCC'S CAFETERIA

BY D. BETH GRIFFITH
GAZETTE REPORTER

Fall is a season of changes. One of the first things I noticed was the new cafeteria. City Fresh Foods is now in the space this year. The whole cafeteria has been upgraded and the entire space is being utilized. New amenities include fruit and yogurt bar and hot cereal in the morning, a salad bar for lunchtime, a deli, soup, daily hot specials, fountain drinks, and the ability to pay with a debit/credit card. There is also a Café Cart Monday thru Thursday from three to seven p.m. There are wraps, salads, chips, and cookies for sale. The Café Cart is

located in front of the library on the first floor.

The Head Chef and Manager of Roxbury Café is John Smith Sr. John has been in the food service industry for fifteen years. One great quality I have noticed about him is he is a hands-on manager. You will notice him in the back of the kitchen helping out where he is needed.

Kevin is the Sous Chef. He has been in the food service industry for twenty-seven years. He is usually the one creating the delicious entrees that are served for lunch.

The Grill Master is Larnell. He has been in the foodservice industry for thirty one years. He is very laid-back and accommodating to his

customers.

Jesse is in charge of the deli and salad bar. He has been in the foodservice industry for seventeen years.

Quala is the cashier and stocker for the Roxbury Café. She has been in the food service industry for twelve years. One of my favorite things about her is her outgoing personality. She tells it like it is. I always know I'm going to get a good laugh from her. She always brightens my day.

I have had the opportunity to enjoy the food of the Roxbury Café. Everything I have tasted has been delicious. I give Roxbury Café two thumbs up!

NEWS FROM THE REGGIE

BY KEITH McDERMOTT
DIRECTOR OF RLTAAC AND ATHLETICS

The Soccer Team finished its inaugural Varsity season with a 4-5 regular season record and qualified for the state playoffs

as the #4 seed team. The team played the #1 seed team Bunker Hill Community College in the State & Region 21/New England. The RCC Tigers beat Bunker Hill Community College 3-1 and advanced to the State final game vs. Springfield

Tech for the Championship. The team lost 1-0 and finished as the runner-up in the State and finished its first season with an overall record of 5-6.

Three RCC players received post-season honors. Freshman Forward Jean Stevens Levellard was a member of the NJCAA All Region First Team while freshmen Jean Acce and Wadethon Saintloth were selected for the NJCAA All Region Second Team. Other impressive players included Dean Paul Robinson who scored 6 goals against Mass Bay and the winning goal against Bunker Hill Community College. He only played in 6 games this year and will have a strong year next year.

Coach Lacombe has been actively recruiting for next year but this year was a great start!



RCC's basketball games are popular with students.

RCC HOLDS TRIBUTE FOR MICHAEL WIGGINS

On September 26, the Roxbury Community College community gathered in the Auditorium of the Media Arts Center to pay tribute to Michael Wiggins, who died in July of this year in yet another senseless act of violence. Wiggins, a student at RCC, was an active member of Club Hope and the Video Club.

Many people eulogized Michael, and spoke about his energy and contributions. Professor Justin Petty, Chair of Broadcast and Media Technology, served as the emcee, and several students, as well as representatives from faculty, staff, and administration, spoke about Michael.

Brittany Fernandes and Nadine Wilkerson sang a poignant song by Mariah Carey, "One Sweet Day," and Professor Veronica McCormack offered a "Peace Prayer."

Prof. Petty played his steel drums and he was accompanied by Dr. Weeks on the piano. The Video Club presented a slide show with scenes from Michael's life, with photos from his childhood to his more recent life. The shining smile that the audience saw will be a lasting memory of Michael's warm and loving personality.

Felice Texeira spoke for the family, remembering Michael as a fun-loving and enthusiastic young man who embraced life.

The program's back cover offered the following poem by the rapper, Tupac Shakur:

In the Event of My Demise

In the event of my demise
When my heart can beat no more
I hope I die for a principle
Or a belief that I had lived 4.
I will die before my time
Because I feel the shadow's depth
So much I wanted 2 accomplish
Before I reached my death
I have come 2 grips with the possibility
And wiped the last tear from my eyes
I loved all who were positive
In the event of my demise

Michael had high hopes for Club Hope

MEETING THE GOVERNOR AT THE STATE HOUSE

BY AMANDA L. SCHAEFER
GAZETTE REPORTER

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Gov. Deval Patrick at the State House while taking a tour with my Introduction to US Government and Politics class and its professor, Lynne Lyman. Meeting Deval Patrick, as brief as it was, was an honor within itself. He is not only the governor of Massachusetts, but he also symbolizes how far we've come as a society. Gov. Patrick is the second African-American Governor in the whole United States.

He was not only kind but also seemed grounded and humble. Despite all the adversities he's

overcome, he still remembers where he came from and knows how important it is to be personable. No one in my class felt intimidated or shy. Everyone felt his presence and felt how powerful it was. He shook all of our hands and thanked us for coming to see what the State House entailed.

Meeting Deval Patrick marked a defining moment in my life. He sent us a message that day without even speaking. That message was to make every effort to achieve your goals. Nothing is impossible. Not many people will have the opportunity that we had, so hopefully reading this will help them understand the collective pride we felt that day.

OPINION

“THE GATEWAY TO MY DREAMS”

BY BETTY NELSON
FORMER RCC STUDENT

On the path of music, I stumbled upon other fascinating treasures that were breathtaking. I’ve always loved music, loved to sing, and took advantage of every opportunity available. So I performed at churches and schools, with very little knowledge of music. All I knew was to open my mouth and let the sound freely flow. I studied voice at music centers with a desire to one day take piano lessons. Eventually, I heard about the music program at Roxbury Community College, so I visited the campus and was very pleased at

what it had to offer. I enrolled and the school was better than I imagined. The first stages of my studies included voice and piano, but the studies grew wider as I learned the history of music. Reading the biographies of musicians was heart-touching, and I was amazed by the challenges that they endured to become famous. I would never have known what pains it took to become professional. Nevertheless, I’m willing to take on the challenges for what I love. I want to become a music instructor like my teachers, to pass on information about music. Next, I began studying, reading

and writing for my other classes and in my free time, every chance I got. Then the time came to review my collection. It may be a book! I had written my autobiography and I hope to publish it someday. Then the idea came to help women through hard times through a Christian organization. Finally, I talked with my counselor, Linda O’Connor, and she gave me the information I needed to find the college that would turn my dreams into reality. Thanks, RCC, the gateway to my dream, for leading me to the place to turn my dreams into a reality. *Editor’s Note: Betty is moving on to Roanoke Bible College.*

GRADE DISPUTES STILL UNRESOLVED

BY DENICE BADGETT
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

I have a question... Has anyone on campus ever had a grade dispute? How’d it go for you? I’d like to share my journey to filing my complaint up the chain of command at RCC. It all started in the Fall of 2006. I returned to school for my Spring 07 Semester to find out that I received a grade much lower than I had earned. I ran into the instructor, who will remain nameless. (She taught Black Musical Styles that semester). I confronted her about what was clearly a typographical error and she informed me that I did not do her midterm and I was missing 3 papers. I quickly pulled out my midterm paper, which I am proud to say she gave me an A and told her that I did in fact do the 3 papers and supplied her with copies of those papers. She apologized and said she’d look at her books again. The following day I ran into her again, only to find out that she insisted that my grade was correct. I immediately took my complaint to the Dean of Student Affairs. Here’s where I began my endless journey for justice. The Dean of Student Affairs informed me that several other students had come to him in reference to this same

instructor with the same problem I was having. At the end of the day there were 6 students with the same issue, from the same class, with the same instructor. Could all 6 of us be wrong? Together we formed an unspoken pact to see that justice prevails in this case. To our surprise, it was harder than we expected. We all met with the Dean of Student Affairs and informed him that we wanted to set up a meeting with the instructor. The meeting was set for that Friday (sigh). But the instructor found our complaint so frivolous that she just did not show up at all. No phone call, no apology, no nothing. The Dean of Students told us that he would contact us after he set up another meeting (sigh). There was a second meeting that next Friday. However, we were not informed. The meeting went on without any of us present. (I know that’s what we said.) We went to the Dean of Students the following Monday and he informed us that the instructor insisted that the meeting continue without us present, and he obliged. So I pose this question to you all: Who is running this? Clearly it seemed to us that this instructor was. We were not satisfied with the results of our meeting with the Dean of Student Affairs

and we took our grievance to the Vice President of RCC. We informed her of our situation and expected this matter to be looked into thoroughly. Again we were disappointed in the results of this haphazard investigation that left us feeling like we just did not matter at all. The semester started with 6 people filing a complaint and the semester ended with none of our complaints being addressed properly. All we really truly wanted was for someone, anyone, to demand that this instructor bring in her books and step by step explain how she graded this class. How difficult could that task be? Out of frustration we took our complaint to the Board of Higher Education in May 07. They responded with a letter being sent to the President of RCC, stating that this matter be handled within 30 days. Upon returning this semester, I requested a meeting with the President to see if he did, in fact, receive the letter sent to him by the Board of Education, but to no avail. I was sent back to the VP’s office to get the problem resolved. It is now October 17, 2007 and to date we are still waiting for justice to prevail. *Denice Badgett is a Broadcast Media technology student at RCC.*

NO MORE FARE HIKES

BY DAVID PALOMARES
GAZETTE REPORTER

I barely take the bus or train anymore, not because of poor service (though that hasn’t changed much) but because of cost. Remember when the train was 85¢ and the

bus was 65¢? Now it’s \$2 for the train and \$1.50 for the bus if you don’t use the Charlie Card. Most people accepted the price hike of \$1.25 for the train and 90¢ for the bus if the service improved. But it didn’t! Now, at almost \$5 a ride per day on the train, it may

even get more expensive. MassPIRG released a report indicating that unless the T does something about their budget problems soon, then riders will see fare hikes once again. Bikes are looking better every day.

POETS CORNER

DRUGS

I should look to the east upon the hills
Where the sunrise is shining on my second face
But the crowd that marches
In the corner of that ghetto
Like a smoke colored cloud
Making a swing with waves of drugs
Dripping in the lobby of young people
Thus exchanging my thoughts
From what I had imagined
To what I heard and what I saw.

What they need to know is
When you insert that insect into your mind
It will consume your conscience
your surroundings,
Until it redefines you,
Diverts you from glory.
What is in society that you despise?

Drugs are profitless fruit
That people take
They devour this fruit.
This disobedience has no salvation
The punishment is hell from the womb to the tomb.
My dear, you could live a better life
If you thought about this nightmare
That pointed you on the road to perdition more than twice.

Be wise, don’t be otherwise!
It’s time to turn over a new leaf
Or you become a con-artist, a good for nothing
Every day hang-in-out with your friends
Joking, drinking, cursing everybody
Without awareness that your night
Will be a night with no stars, with no moonlight
Without realizing your days will be over
Sooner than you thought
Since your brain is already buried
Under the shadow of disease.

You know what!?
There is someone somewhere drawing
The picture of your coffin
Yet in that down-to-the-wire
You can still escape from this sentence.
Don’t drag your feet in this mess
Follow the sunrise; avoid distress.
Liberate yourself!
Get tough! Be drug free!
You will see your own reflection
Through the broken mirrors of the world.
Cherish nature.
You will smell the dawn of the future.

Jean B Mercredy



Jean B. Mercredy